

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 FEA-02 AGR-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02 AF-10 EA-11 NEA-14 DRC-01 /248 W

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R 021617Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1321

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: KINGSTON CONFERENCE BETWEEN EC AND ACP

COUNTRIES: FRENCH VIEWS

REF: STATE 165829

SUMMARY: QUAI OFFICIAL SAYS GOF SATISFIED WITH KINGSTON
RESULTS. STABILIZATION AGREEMENT CONSIDERED FRENCH
VICTORY. REVERSE PREFERENCES DOWN BUT NOT COMPLETELY
OUT.

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1. EMBASSY OFFICER WITH REFTEL IN HAND, HAD OCCASION TO BRIEFLY REVIEW KINGSTON CONFERENCE WITH PATRICK O'CORNESSE, MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR EC RELATIONS (ECONOMIC), BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR MONTH-LONG HOLIDAY.

2. O'CORNESSE SAID EVEN THOUGH FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES - ACTING AS EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT - HAD GONE TO KINGSTON WITH INCOMPLETE MANDATE, MUCH HAD BEEN IRONED OUT ON THE SPOT IN INTRA-EC MEETINGS BEFORE ACTUAL CONFERENCE WITH ACP COUNTRIES GOT UNDERWAY.

3. HE COMMENTED FRENCH WERE IN GENERAL SATISFIED WITH RESULTS OF CONFERENCE, THOUGH SOME ISSUES HAD BEEN PAPERED OVER OR PUT ON BACK BURNER.

4. HE SAID HE CONSIDERED THE AGREEMENT ON SETTING UP SYSTEM FOR STABILIZING EARNINGS FROM ACP EXPORTS OF PRIMARY PRODUCTS TO EC WAS VICTORY FOR THE FRENCH WHO HAVE TRADITIONALLY FAVORED COMMODITY AGREEMENTS. HE ADDED THAT EVEN THE U.S. SOMETIMES ADOPTED THIS APPROACH, REFERRING TO OUR BILATERAL PETROLEUM DEALS. SUGAR, HE SAID, WAS TREATED IN RELATIVELY LOW-KEYED MANNER SIMPLY BECAUSE PRODUCERS WERE PRESENTLY ABLE TO SELL ALL THEY WANTED AT HIGH PRICES AND THUS DID NOT PUSH FOR SPECIFIC EC PURCHASE COMMITMENT.

5. REGARDING TRADE ARRANGEMENTS, O'CORNESSE WAS ASKED IF WORDING OF THE PRESS RELEASE (REFTEL) INDEED MEANT THAT THE CONCEPT OF RECIPROCITY (REVERSE PREFERENCES) WAS DEAD. HE DID NOT REPLY DIRECTLY BUT STATED FRANCE HAD "RENOUNCED" ITS SUPPORT OF THE CONCEPT; HOWEVER, IF A COUNTRY FOR REASONS OF NATIONAL PRIDE INSISTED ON GIVING REVERSE PREFERENCES THAT, OF COURSE, WOULD BE ANOTHER QUESTION. ON THE GATT ABILITY OF THE NON-RECIPROCAL REGIME ADOPTED AT KINGSTON, O'CORNESSE SAW REAL PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BY THE CONCERNED PARTIES.
STONE

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